United Nations E/CN.3/2004/23

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 December 2003

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Thirty-fifth session
2-5 March 2004
Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Activities not classified by field: indicators

Indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fourth session.[a] The report describes the activities of the United Nations Statistics Division in leading the inter-agency work for the preparation of statistics and analysis for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It also presents a review of data availability and problems for the compilation of Millennium Development Goals indicators, and describes the activities recently undertaken and planned by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators, coordinated by the Division, for the improvement of data for the indicators. The Commission is invited to comment on priorities for further research and support of capacity-building in statistical programmes in fields covered by the indicators.

[a] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 4* (E/2003/24), chap. I.A.

* E/CN.3/2004/1.

03-66852 (E) 190104

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–4	3
II.	Inter-agency work on monitoring progress	5–13	3
	A. Background	5–6	3
	B. Data quality and availability for Millennium Development Goals indicators	7–13	4
III.	Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals in countries	14–19	5
IV.	Statistical capacity-building	20–26	6
Annexes			
I.	Status of reporting on regional trends in monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, 2003		8
II.	Improving the quality of data for Millennium Development Goals indicators		16
III.	Meeting workplan for Millennium Development Goals indicators, 2003-2005		21

I. Introduction

1. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and its Statistics Division lead the preparation of statistics and analysis on the Millennium Development Goals for the Secretary-General's annual report on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see A/57/270 and A/58/323).

2. This work is undertaken through the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators, which meets at least once a year to review methods, standards and available data for the agreed indicators, and reviews and analyses trends for each of the quantifiable goals and targets.

3. The programme to support the preparation of Millennium Development Goals country reports at the country level is coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The programme aims to assist countries in the preparation of national Millennium Development Goals reports and the review and adaptation of national goals, targets and indicators related to the Goals, through training and consultation between the United Nations country team — comprising United Nations agencies present in the country — and government officials. The United Nations Statistics Division collaborates closely with UNDP on the compilation and analysis of indicators, adherence to agreed definitions, and standards and data needs.

4. The Division also works closely with UNDP, the World Bank, other competent agencies and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) on the promotion and coordination of technical cooperation with countries to improve their ongoing statistical programmes, which provide the basic data for the Millennium Development Goals indicators.

II. Inter-agency work on monitoring progress

A. Background

5. In June 2003, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs submitted to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General statistics and analysis compiled by an inter-agency group for the 2003 report (see A/58/323). The analysis of trends presented in the report is based on global and regional aggregates for two benchmark years: 1990 and 2000 or the latest available year. Where trend data are not available, the analysis is based only on most recent estimates (see annex I). The full report is currently being revised and edited to be issued for wider dissemination as a United Nations publication.

6. As part of its coordinating role in the global monitoring of Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Statistics Division also maintains a millennium indicators database, with country data series provided by the responsible agencies on the agreed Millennium Development Goals indicators and additional indicators provided as supplementary information for more in-depth analysis (see http://millenniumindicators.un.org).

B. Data quality and availability for Millennium Development Goals indicators

7. The development and application of standard statistical concepts and methods for national and international use in compiling data for the Millennium Development Goals indicators have been important preoccupations of Millennium Development Goals inter-agency and expert meetings and consultations.

8. In the 2003 report (A/58/323), there were no trend data or inadequate trend data for 16 of the indicators and problems of uncertainty for many others. A review of the availability of data for the 48 indicators at the regional and country levels is contained in annex I.

9. After three years of intensive discussion and experience shared among the participants in inter-agency expert group meetings on the indicators, there are still indicators for which standards and guidelines need more development and testing before the desirable level of reliability, interpretability and coverage can be reached. In a number of areas, often with impetus from the strong general interest in measuring progress in the Goals, there is already significant work well under way, with an agreed work plan and timetable. But in other areas, significant unresolved issues remain and more attention is needed. A review of the work in progress and needed for the improvement of data for the indicators is contained in annex II.

10. At its most recent meeting, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators proposed to undertake collaborative work on areas in which work is most urgently needed, including:

(a) Producing harmonized, integrated guidelines on household income and consumption surveys to provide consistent, standardized measurement of poverty eradication for national and international purposes. The guidelines need to take into account the need for transparency and simplicity in the compilation and use of purchasing power parities (PPPs) in poverty comparisons; the need for more research on wide differences in national accounts and household survey measurement results on the relevant income and consumption aggregates; identification of gender differences; and the measurement of poverty among the elderly;

(b) Improving the framework for the assessment of gender equality through a review of the existing list of indicators and the development and proposal of new indicators;

(c) Improving the framework and selection of indicators on environment and improving national capacities to compile and analyse those indicators;

(d) Developing detailed guidelines for measuring slum populations and their characteristics, making full use of geographic information systems (GIS) technologies to present and link data geographically and relate the data to infrastructure in many fields of concern, such as education and health services, water and sanitation.

11. Proposals have already been made to form subgroups of agencies and organize work in 2004 in some of the above areas. The proposed subgroups would work under the overall mandate of the Inter-Agency Expert Group, with coordination by the United Nations Statistics Division. In particular:

(a) The United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are planning joint work on poverty measurement issues;

(b) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the ILO, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Statistics Division and the Millennium Project will work on the development of indicators on gender equality;

(c) The United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) will work on the measurement of slum populations.

12. Concerning environment indicators, it was noted there is need for the development of an integrated set of indicators to analyse environmental sustainability and promote data development at the national level. The United Nations Statistics Division has initiated discussion with the concerned agencies to plan the necessary work.

13. Throughout the process, the involvement of country offices will be essential. Representatives of national statistical services are part of the inter-agency and expert consultations and provide partner agencies with views on what is needed at the national level in terms of data development and for improving the use of data in national policy-making and monitoring.

III. Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals in countries

14. An essential part of the monitoring exercise is represented by the compilation of indicators and the analysis of trends in Millennium Development Goals country reports. The United Nations Development Programme is the lead agency in this work.

15. The United Nations Statistics Division has supported UNDP in working on the technical implications of this work and contributed to the discussion on how to adapt the agreed Millennium Development Goals framework to national needs and circumstances. Countries have succeeded to a great extent in using the Goals, targets and indicators, adapting them to their national circumstances and policy priorities.

16. To provide countries with a basic reference guide, an inter-agency working group of the United Nations Development Group, co-chaired by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Statistics Division and UNDP, directed the preparation of the handbook *Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: Definitions, Rationale, Concepts and Sources*.[1] The handbook provides guidance on the definitions, rationale, concepts and sources of the data for each of the indicators that are being used to monitor the Goals and targets.

17. A fundamental component in the process of adapting the Millennium Development Goals to country priorities has been the disaggregation of data by geographical areas and by population groups — an aspect also highlighted in the handbook.

18. The United Nations Statistics Division has also been actively involved in many of the training activities undertaken by the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy and UNDP country and regional offices on the preparation of Millennium Development Goals country reports. That participation has helped national statistical services to become more involved in the participation of country reports. A review of the work completed and planned is contained in annex III. One Millennium Development Goals training workshop is planned for a group of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and south-eastern European countries in early 2004. The workshop will aim to ensure consistency in development agenda and monitoring indicators for the Millennium Development Goals and for the social inclusion process in new and candidate countries of the European Union.

19. A more recent development in the work undertaken at the national level has been the preparation of national reports by donor countries, focusing on their progress in meeting the requirements for the realization of a global partnership between developed and developing countries to successfully move towards the Millennium Development Goals. One country — Denmark — has finalized its report and several more countries are working on reports. A draft outline for donor reporting on Goal 8 has been prepared by a group of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members, with the participation of the United Nations (the outline was presented at a meeting of the DAC Task Force on Donor Practices held in Paris on 26 and 27 November 2003).

IV. Statistical capacity-building

20. The Millennium Development Goals monitoring framework has become widely accepted and has proved instrumental in raising awareness of global and national development priorities. The impetus generated by the interest in advocating for policy reforms and mobilizing resources for the Goals has also often resulted in an increased attention and demand for statistics in countries.

21. Improved statistics are the necessary basis both for producing the indicators to monitor progress towards the Goals and for informing the necessary policies to bring about changes to successfully move towards the agreed targets.

22. Building statistical capacity in countries and improving international agencies' statistical work and coordination are fundamental components of the work to achieve the goals of poverty eradication and development.

23. Work is under way and has been planned in a number of areas. For example, a training workshop was conducted for African countries in Nairobi in September 2003. The workshop brought together national statisticians from 29 francophone and anglophone countries to share their experience in preparing Millennium Development Goals indicators and the use of various national sources. Topics covered included definitions; methods of computation; potential problems with sources; the use of alternative sources and related implications and methods of interpretation; and analysis and dissemination of national Millennium Development Goals indicators.

24. A training workshop for countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region will be held in Beirut in February 2004. The training

will aim to strengthen national capacity to prepare statistics, indicators and trend analysis for national Millennium Development Goals monitoring.

25. Other important initiatives for the improvement of statistical capacity in countries include the work of the PARIS 21 task team on improving statistical support for monitoring development goals. The team has scheduled six country case studies and is continuing its work on national and international compilation issues and household survey issues with a number of partners (see E/CN.3/2004/25).

26. Another important initiative is the new global partnership Health Metrics Network for the improvement of health information systems. The Network is planning to undertake a variety of programmes to promote countries' and subnational health information systems.[2]

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XVII.18; available at http://millenniumindicators.un.org, under "Key documents".

[2] See www.who.int/entity/mip/2003/other_documents/en/health_metrics-boerma.pdf (accessed on 17 December 2003).

Annex I

Status of reporting on regional trends in monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, 2003*

Goal 1
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Poverty
(World Bank)

1. **Population below $1 PPP per day**

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided, covering 1990 and 1999; new estimates will be provided in spring 2004.

Data for 94 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

2. **Poverty gap ratio**

3. **Share of poorest quintile in national consumption**

No new regional estimates were available in 2003.

2. Data for 94 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

3. Data for 124 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

4. **Children under five years of age who are underweight**
(UNICEF)

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 140 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

5. **Population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption**
(FAO)

New regional estimates were provided covering 1990/92-1998/2000; new estimates will be provided in spring 2004.

Data for 116 countries; 91 countries with more than two data points.

* Data is organized under the eight Goals and 48 indicators (see A/58/323, annex).

Goal 2
Achieve universal primary education

6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education
(UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank)

New regional estimates were provided, based on an updated database, for 1990/91, 1998/99 and 2000/01.

Data for 175 countries; 175 countries with more than two data points.

7. Pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5
(UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank)

Regional estimates not available.

Data for 108 countries; 108 countries with more than two data points.

8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds
(UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank)

New regional estimates were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 138 countries; 138 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 3
Promote gender equality and empower women

9. Ratio of boys to girls in primary, secondary and tertiary education
(UNESCO, Division for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM)

For the primary level, new regional estimates were provided, based on an updated database, for 1990/91 and 2000/01.

No new regional estimates were available for secondary or tertiary levels.

Primary: data for 197 countries; 183 countries with more than two data points.

Secondary: data for 162 countries; 136 countries with more than two data points.

Tertiary: data for 135 countries; 105 countries with more than two data points.

10. Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 year-olds
(UNESCO, Division for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM)

New regional estimates were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 138 countries; 138 countries with more than two data points.

11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
(ILO, Division for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM)

New regional estimates were provided covering 1990 and 2001, based on an updated database using the ILO regional classification.

Data for 188 countries; 131 countries with more than two data points.

12. **Seats held by women in national parliaments**
(IPU, Division for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM)

New data were provided for the report, updated to March 2003; new data will be provided for the 2004 report.

Data for 188 countries; 174 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 4
Reduce child mortality

13. **Under-five mortality rate**
(UNICEF, WHO, United Nations Population Division)

Regional estimates updated on the basis of a few new country data were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 193 countries; 191 countries with more than two data points.

14. **Infant mortality rate**
(UNICEF, WHO, United Nations Population Division)

No new regional estimates available.

Data for 193 countries; 191 countries with more than two data points.

15. **1-year-old children immunized against measles**
(UNICEF, WHO)

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided covering 1990 and 2001.

Data for 174 countries; 170 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 5
Improve maternal health

16. **Maternal mortality ratio**
(UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA)

New regional estimates were provided covering the year 2000; no regional trend data available.

Data for 183 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

17. **Birth attended by a skilled attendant**
(UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA)

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided covering 1990 and 2000.

Data for 157 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 6
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

18. Adults aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS, both sexes (UNAIDS, WHO)

Prevalence in 15-24-year-old pregnant women: new data for selected countries were provided for the 2003 report; no new regional estimates available.

Prevalence in 15-49-year-old adults: new regional estimates were provided covering 2002, both sexes; no trend estimates available.

Data for 20 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

19. Condom use

No new regional estimates are available.

Data for 145 countries; 74 countries with more than two data points.

19 (a) Women aged 15-24 reporting condom use during sexual intercourse with a non-regular partner in the past 12 months (UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA)

Estimates only available for sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and south-central Asia, for one data point in the period 1996-2001.

Data for 48 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

19 (b) Population aged 15-24 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA)

The indicator consists of two components:

(i) Percentage of women and men aged 15-24 who know that a person can protect her/himself from HIV infection by consistent condom use;

(ii) Percentage of women and men aged 15-24 who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV.

Regional estimates are available for sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and south-central and south-eastern Asia, covering one data point in the period 1996-2001.

Data for the first component of the indicator are available for 68 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Data for the second component of the indicator are available for 78 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

20. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans (UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS)

Regional estimate is available for Africa only, for one data point in the period 1996-2001.

Data for 44 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

21. Deaths associated with malaria
(WHO, UNICEF)

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Death: data for 191 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Prevalence: data for 109 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

22. Population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures
(UNICEF, WHO)

Data are available for selected African countries only (two indicators); no trend estimates available.

Prevention: data for 35 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Treatment: data for 35 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
(WHO)

New regional estimates based on an updated database were provided for 2001; figures presented in 2003 report are United Nations Statistics Division calculation of regional aggregates, based on country data provided by WHO; no trend estimates available.

Death: data for 191 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

Prevalence: data for 191 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

24. Tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course
(WHO)

Global estimates based on an updated database were provided for 1995 and 2000 (two indicators).

Detected: data for 183 countries; 162 countries with more than two data points.

Treated: data for 166 countries; 155 countries with more than two data points.

Goal 7
Ensure environmental sustainability

25. Proportion of land area covered by forest
(FAO)

No new regional estimates were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 198 countries; 198 countries with more than two data points.

26. **Area protected to maintain biological diversity**
(UNEP)

New regional estimates and trends provided for 1990 and 2003.

Data for 198 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

27. **Energy use**
(IEA, World Bank, United Nations Statistics Division)

New regional estimates and trends provided for 1990 and 2000.

Data for 122 countries; 122 countries with more than two data points.

28. **Carbon dioxide emissions and consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)**
(United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNEP, United Nations Statistics Division)

New world estimates provided for 1990 and 1999 for carbon dioxide and for 1986-2001 for CFCs.

Carbon dioxide: data for 210 countries; 207 countries with more than two data points.

CFCs: data for 156 countries; 155 countries with more than two data points.

29. **Population using solid fuels**

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Data for 0 countries; 0 countries with more than two data points.

30. **Sustainable access to an improved water source**
(WHO, UNICEF)

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Data for 167 countries; 167 countries with more than two data points.

31. **Access to improved sanitation**
(WHO, UNICEF)

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Data for 162 countries; 162 countries with more than two data points.

32. **Households with access to secure tenure**

New regional estimates provided for 2001; trend estimates not available.

Country data not available.

Goal 8
Develop a global partnership for development

ODA
(OECD)

33. Net ODA, total and to least developed countries

2002 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Total: data for 22 countries; 22 countries with more than two data points.

Least developed countries: data for 22 countries; 22 countries with more than two data points.

34. Bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

2000-2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 21 countries; 21 countries with more than two data points.

35. Untied bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 21 countries; 20 countries with more than two data points.

36. ODA received by landlocked countries

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 29 countries; 29 countries with more than two data points.

37. ODA received by small island developing States

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 37 countries; 37 countries with more than two data points.

Market access
(WTO, UNCTAD)

38. Developed country imports from developing countries admitted free of duty

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for developing regions and least developed countries aggregates only, for 1996, 2000 and 2001.

39. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products, textiles and clothing from developing countries

2001 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for developing regions and least developed countries aggregates only, for 1996, 2000 and 2001.

Agricultural support and trade capacity (OECD)

40. Support to domestic agriculture by developed countries

2002 figures were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 16 countries; 16 countries with more than two data points.

41. ODA to build trade capacity

Data for world and region aggregates only from 2001 were provided for the 2003 report.

No country data available.

42. Countries that have reached their HIPC decision point and completion point

43. Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative

44. Debt service in relation to exports of goods and services of low- and middle-income countries (IMF, World Bank)

Data by country and world presented in the report were updated as of July 2003.

45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds (ILO)

Regional estimates for 1995 and 1999 were provided.

Data for 115 countries; 115 countries with two data points.

46. Population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis (WHO)

No new regional estimates were available for the 2003 report.

Data for 178 countries; 178 countries with more than two data points.

47. Telephone lines and cellular phones (ITU)

Updated regional estimates for 2002 were provided for the 2003 report.

Data for 217 countries; 217 countries with more than two data points.

48. Personal computers and Internet users (ITU)

Updated regional estimates for 2002 were provided for the 2003 report.

Computers: data for 168 countries; 168 countries with more than two data points.

Internet: data for 208 countries; 208 countries with more than two data points.

Annex II

Improving the quality of data for Millennium Development Goals indicators

1. The Inter-Agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators discussed this question on the basis of a note prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division reviewing the status of development of international standards and guidelines and suggesting priority areas for work in the short, medium and long-term future.

2. Participants proposed several clarifications and additions to the note and endorsed the proposals as a general guide to further work. The note, as revised to take the meeting comments and suggestions into account, is set out below.

Development of standards and guidelines

3. The development and application of standard statistical concepts and methods for national and international use in statistical series used in relation to the Millennium Development Goals indicators have been important preoccupations of inter-agency and expert meetings and consultations since the preparation of a list of indicators for monitoring the Goals was first discussed.

4. In many areas, long-standing international recommendations have found continuing acceptance and application in data-collection and compilation programmes. At the international level, such recommendations are essential to the comparability and quality of the selected series; at the national level, they serve as indispensable, respected and valued guidelines for the development of national data-collection programmes, with appropriate adaptation to national needs, circumstances and priorities.

5. The reliability, acceptance and value of data series can to an important extent be judged by the quality of and extent of experience with the standards and methods used in their collection.

6. After three years of intensive discussion and experience shared among participants in inter-agency and expert meetings on the Millennium Development Goals indicators, it is reasonable to assess and inventory areas where standards and guidelines need more development and testing before the relevant indicators can reach the desirable level of reliability, interpretability and coverage.

7. In a number of areas, often with impetus from the strong general interest in measuring progress in the Millennium Development Goals, there is already significant work under way, with a workplan and timetable well in hand. In other areas, significant unresolved issues remain and more attention is needed. In some, necessary developmental work has hardly begun. A review of the work that is either in progress or is required to develop the indicators is set out below. It identifies gaps and recommends for further consideration elements for a work programme, as endorsed by the Inter-Agency Expert Group. The review is organized under abbreviated headings corresponding to the 48 indicators (and one proposed additional indicator) being developed to measure implementation of the Goals (see A/58/323, annex).

1-3. Poverty and income distribution

Very considerable work has been done over a long period in this field. However, integrated survey guidelines and measurement standards consistent with national accounting and suitable for developing countries are lacking. Given the research and experience that have been accomplished in this field, this is a relatively short-term objective.

Countries need to be more involved in international estimates of extreme poverty based on PPPs as this measure is so widely used and quoted. Using PPPs, especially in this context, is an area where many developing countries have little experience or training.

Problems have also been identified in reconciling income and consumption data from household surveys and national accounting. This is important to ensure consistency between poverty analysis and macroeconomic aggregates, which are central to national development planning and international monitoring. New research and analysis are required, but there has been sufficient preliminary work to ensure that a project can be organized relatively quickly for results in the medium term.

The need for gender analysis of income and consumption and of intra-household distribution is also well established but evidently requires a major long-term effort, including the development of methodologies to make better use of existing data sources, such as household and time-use surveys. Similarly, there is a need to incorporate into the analysis of poverty the age dimension, given the predominance of elderly people among the poor, especially in some regions.

4. Underweight children

Extensive work is ongoing and well documented.

5. Dietary energy consumption

Extensive work is ongoing, including special efforts to increase the role of national statistical services in improving and disseminating these data. Work undertaken by FAO in this area is very encouraging and could lead to significant data improvements at the national and international levels in the medium term.

6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education

Ongoing research and development should systematically address comparability of methods and results between household survey and administrative sources.

7. Completion of primary education

Considerable work has been launched in this area relatively recently, but new methods and standards have not yet been thoroughly tested and agreed.

8 and 10. Literacy

Work is ongoing on more functional definitions of literacy, and new guidelines and recommendations could be developed in the medium term.

9. Gender parity index at three levels of schooling

The use of ratios in this field is still relatively new, and their stability and reliability should be further evaluated.

11. Women's work

Considerable preliminary research has been done on proposed additional indicators, and specific proposals have been made for further research and development. Relatively early adoption and application of new methods and guidelines is feasible.

12. Women in parliament

Good preliminary research has been done here, with specific proposals for research and development, and relatively early adoption and application of new methods and guidelines is feasible. Development of complementary indicators of empowerment has been extensively discussed and a programme is now needed to move towards more formal proposals and guidelines.

Proposed additional indicator on domestic violence under Goal 3

Violence against women — whether in the home, schools, workplace, community or other settings — constitutes a critical barrier to women's empowerment and gender equality. An indicator on domestic violence is being developed to be proposed for inclusion under Goal 3, pursuant to the Millennium Declaration, paragraph 25.

13-15. Child mortality/immunization

Extensive development and review of concepts and methods is ongoing here, and innovative indicators to complement the Millennium Development Goals indicators could be developed for wide use within a few years, including coverage of desirable interventions.

16 and 17. Maternal health

These indicators have been extensively researched and work on reliable trend measurement is ongoing. Some complementary indicators of desirable interventions and their implementation are available and should be recommended for use at the country level. Several agencies felt that an indicator to measure the contraceptive prevalence rate should be included under maternal health and that the decision not to include indicators of reproductive health should be reconsidered.

18. HIV/AIDS

Extensive development and review of concepts and methods is ongoing here. Successful ways of expanding coverage of the data are still at a relatively early stage, however, and measures of trends need a considerable development effort and agreement.

19 and 20. HIV/AIDS knowledge and prevention/orphans

Extensive further development and review of concepts and methods are ongoing and much remains to be done. Successful ways of expanding coverage of the data are at

a very early stage, and measures of trends also need a considerable development effort and agreement.

21 and 22. Malaria

Measurement of successful prevention and treatment methods is being extensively researched and tested but wide application requires at least two more years of work. Measurement of trends in prevalence and deaths still requires considerably more work.

23 and 24. Tuberculosis

The DOTS methodology has found good success in application so far and its further development and application are ongoing.

25-32. Environment/water and sanitation/housing

Development and review of concepts and methods is ongoing for most of the environment-related indicators in the Millennium Development Goals list. However, standards and guidelines for data collection at the country level are not well developed and there is insufficient collaboration between national statistical services and policy analysts in this field. Work is needed to develop a more coherent and integrated framework for analysis and to produce specific recommendations that national agencies can use for the development of environment-related statistics and indicators.

25. Forest cover

This indicator is relatively well established. Work on extensive development of the underlying database and conceptual framework is recommended. The consultation process with countries is being strengthened as measurement technologies improve and the political importance of the indicator increases.

26. Protected areas

The long-term collection of data on protected areas has produced a data set which is currently finding wide acceptance as an indicator for the environment. There has been also constant improvement in both the World Database on Protected Areas and in data-collection procedures at the country level. Developing a conceptual framework for the indicator within a broader environmental accounting framework is recommended as a medium-term objective.

27. Energy use

International standards in this field need to be updated, harmonized and applied more rigorously.

28. Carbon dioxide and CFCs

International standards for statistical purposes in this field need to be updated and harmonized more rigorously, and the data-compilation process at the national level brought under the general responsibility of statistical services cooperating with environmental offices.

29. Solid fuels

This indicator is still at a very early stage of development, standardization and application.

30 and 31. Water and sanitation

Extensive development and review of concepts and methods is ongoing here, with considerable recent progress and agreement on measurement guidelines and standards. This work should continue, with a special effort to ensure sufficiently high data quality to successfully monitor medium-term trends.

32. Slums

Extensive preliminary research and development of this indicator have recently begun to yield good results. Considerable further development and review of concepts, methods and collection programmes are still needed. Successful ways of expanding coverage of the data are at a very early stage, and measures of trends also need a considerable development effort and agreement.

33-37 and 41. Official development assistance

These indicators are now being scrutinized regularly with a view to improving detail and relevance to overall aid objectives. This work should continue and could also involve developing country participants with a view to a better assessment of aid impact by recipient countries. Attention should also be given to coverage of non-OECD/DAC donors.

38-40. Trade and agricultural support

These indicators are now being scrutinized regularly with a view to providing country and commodity detail. This work should continue and could also involve developing country participants.

42-44. Debt

The indicators on the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative are straightforward. Debt sustainability in both HIPC and non-HIPC countries is undergoing methodological study and measurement standards are being clarified and need to be reflected in these indicators in the future.

45. Youth unemployment

The ILO is organizing ongoing work to develop new and more relevant indicators and targets in this field.

46. Access to drugs

Considerably more development and research on appropriate and practical concepts and guidelines are needed for the medium term.

47 and 48. Information and communications technologies

Work has been started on development of new data and indicator proposals in connection with the World Summit on the Information Society, and a new research and development programme for statistics in this field is expected to be launched to follow up the Summit programme of action.

Annex III

Meeting workplan for Millennium Development Goals indicators, 2003-2005

The meeting proposals set out below are based on the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goals Indicators. They provide a working schedule geared to the completion of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (development section) in the summer of 2005.

Inter-Agency Expert Group

Third week of March 2004, New York

September/October 2004, Geneva

Late March 2005, New York

At its fourth meeting, held recently in Geneva, the Inter-Agency Expert Group made several suggestions for the agenda of the March 2004 meeting with a view to starting concrete preparations for the 2005 report and completing basic inputs for the 2004 report. A draft agenda was to be proposed and circulated for comments in December 2003.

Regional meetings

At least one meeting should be held in each region of experts and statisticians on Millennium Development Goals indicators, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division. Several meetings have been held, are in preparation or are being planned, as described below.

Africa

A workshop for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa was held from 22 to 26 November 2003 in Nairobi, in cooperation with UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA. Since those countries are the most critical to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, a follow-up meeting should be held in the first quarter of 2005.

A Millennium Development Goals indicators meeting is to be organized by the United Nations Statistical Division and the Economic Community of West African States in 2004-2005.

Western Asia

An ESCWA/United Nations Statistics Division workshop for the ESCWA countries is to be held from 9 to 13 February 2004.

Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is working with the secretariat of the South Pacific Commission to organize a workshop in the Pacific region in 2004.

Europe

A workshop was organized by UNDP for the EU accession countries in Vilnius in January 2003, with inputs from the United Nations Statistics Division.

A workshop was organized by ECE/UNDP in Bratislava in May 2003 for CIS and south-eastern Europe, on Millennium Development Goals reporting and reporting on social inclusion.

A workshop organized jointly by UNDP and the United Nations Statistics Division is also planned for 23-25 February 2004 for new and candidate EU countries on Millennium Development Goals and social inclusion and statistical requirements for monitoring. ECE will also participate. The meeting will also discuss the preparation of reports on Goal 8 by new donor countries.

There is also keen interest in the ECE region on the part of both the eastern European/CIS countries and the other ECE countries on monitoring implementation under the so-called Goal 8 indicators, and a proposal could be prepared shortly.

Latin America and the Caribbean

No plans are known to the United Nations Statistics Division.

Expert meetings on the development of international standards, guidelines and handbooks relating to statistics for the Millennium Development Goals indicators

The following areas in which work should be organized in 2004-2005 were identified:

(a) Review in depth the suggestions of the report entitled "Aggregation of national data to regional and global estimates of Millennium Development Goals indicators", prepared by Tim Holt as a consultant to the ILO, and prepare a set or recommendations and list of concrete steps to be endorsed and undertaken by the Inter-Agency Expert Group;

(b) Produce harmonized, integrated guidelines on household income and consumption surveys to provide a consistent standardized measurement of poverty eradication for national and international uses. The guidelines need to take into account the need for transparency and simplicity in the compilation and use of PPPs in poverty comparisons; the need for more research on wide differences in national accounts and household survey measurement results on the relevant income and consumption aggregates; identification of gender differences; and measurement of poverty among the elderly;

(c) Improve the framework for the assessment of gender equality through a review of the existing list of indicators and the development and proposal of new indicators;

(d) Improve the framework and selection of indicators on environment and improve national capacities to compile those indicators;

(e) Develop a full set of guidelines for measuring slum populations and their characteristics, making full use of GIS technologies to present and link data geographically and relate the data to infrastructure in many fields of concern, such as education and health services, water and sanitation.

Proposals have already been made to form subgroups of agencies and organize work in 2004 in some of the above areas. The subgroups will work under the overall mandate of the inter-agency group, coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division. In particular:

(a) The ILO, the World Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division will initiate work on Tim Holt's recommendations based on responses to a letter from the ILO requesting comments and suggestions for work before the end of 2003;

(b) The United Nations Statistics Division, with the World Bank and FAO, will initiate work on the poverty measurement issues, with UNCTAD, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Food Policy Research Institute and the ILO to be involved. FAO and ISTAT (Italy) have suggested they might host a meeting;

(c) UNESCO, the ILO, IPU, WHO, UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, ECE, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Millennium Project will work on the development of indicators on gender equality;

(d) The United Nations Statistics Division and UN-Habitat will work on the measurement of slum populations;

(e) On environment indicators, the invited expert to the fourth meeting of the Inter-Agency Expert Group, held in November 2003, made suggestions for the development of an integrated set of statistics for the analysis of environmental sustainability and for data development at the national level. FAO and UNEP could be the agencies initiating action to form the subgroup, possibly in cooperation with Statistics Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency or ISTAT and Italy;

(f) UNHCR is considering organizing and hosting a meeting on refugees and displaced populations and on populations in countries affected by such crises as conflict or famine;

(g) The United Nations Statistics Division poverty statistics project is organizing regional meetings on poverty statistics in the ECLAC, ECOWAS and ESCAP regions, as well as a general expert group meeting on the planned poverty statistics handbook in 2005.